**Levels of Canadian Government**

The Constitution of Canada divides the government of Canada into federal and provincial jurisdictions and provides for the provincial governments to delegate some of its responsibilities to a municipal government.

The **Federal Government** is in Ottawa and is headed by the Governor General of Canada on the advice of the Prime Minister. Its responsibilities include:

* defence,
* criminal law,
* employment insurance,
* postal service,
* census,
* copyrights,
* trade regulation,
* external relations,
* money and banking,
* transportation,
* citizenship, and
* Indian affairs.

**Provincial and Territorial**

There are ten Provincial and three Territorial Governments. Each has its own capital city and is headed by a Lieutenant Governor (provinces) or a Commissioner (territories) on the advice of a Premier (provinces) or a Government Leader (territories).

A province exists in its own right because it was created by the Constitution Acts, 1867 - 1982.

A territory is created through federal law. As a result, Crown lands in the territories are retained by the federal government in the Crown in right of Canada. Provinces own provincial lands in the Crown in right of the province.

Crown land is designated land that is the property of the Queen in Right in Canada. They cannot be sold by the monarch but are passed down to the next monarch unless advised by ministers of the crown. Some crown lands are divvied between Federal and Provincial governments. Crown Land provides the country and the provinces with the majority of their profits from natural resources, largely but not exclusively provincial, rented for logging and mineral exploration rights; revenues flow to the relevant government and may constitute a major income stream, such as in Alberta. Crown land may also be rented by individuals wishing to build homes or cottages.

In a territory, federal Parliament may control provincial-type affairs, such as school curriculum. Territorial governments are not included in the Constitutional amending formula — the way we decide if we want to change something in the Canadian Constitution. Provinces get a vote when a change is proposed — territories do not.

Provincial and territorial responsibilities include:

* property and civil rights,
* administration of justice,
* natural resources and the environment,
* education,
* health, and
* welfare.

**Municipal Governments** are the responsibility of the provincial or territorial governments. The provincial government can create, modify, or eliminate a municipal government and controls exactly which powers a municipal government is entitled to execute.

There are hundreds of municipalities in each province and territory and are labelled in many different forms. "Upper tier" municipalities include Regions, Counties, and Districts and are headed by a Chair or a Warden. "Lower tier" municipalities which exist within an upper tier include Cities, Towns, Townships, and Municipalities and are headed by a Mayor or a Reeve.

Their responsibilities vary from location to location but generally include:

* water
* sewage,
* waste collection,
* public transit,
* land use planning,
* libraries,
* emergency services,
* animal control, and
* economic development.